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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

Source Coverage: 29 December 1959-4 January 1960

This report is based on selected issues of provincial Czechoslovak newspapers published during the period 29 December 1959-4 January 1960. The statements within brackets are those of the researcher.

Source Abbreviations

C = Ciel (Zilina)	P = Pochoden (Hradec Kra-
JP = Jihoceska Pravda (Ceske Budejovice)	love)
MP = Nase Pravda (Gottwaldov)	Pra = Pravda (Plzen)
NS = Nova Svoboda (Ostrava)	Pru = Pruboj (Usti nad Labem)
	R = Rovnost (Brno)
	VN = Vychodoslovenske Noviny (Kosice)

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PART I. THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of Government Policy on the Regional and Local Level

The new year - 1960 - is an important one. It will see the completion of the current Five-Year Plan and the preparations for the next one, which outlines the transition from Socialist construction to the building of a Communist society. A glorious epoch is behind us and we cannot forget those who made it so - above all, the Soviet Union, our Party's elder sister and teacher. Our [Socialist] construction work was greatly facilitated by internationalism and the growth of the peace movement in the world.

The glorious perspectives of industrial expansion require a growing supply of agricultural products. However, so long as there are scattered individual farms, one cannot think of raising production. And it is here that Zilina Kraj remains considerably behind. It will be necessary to throw off the ballast of capitalist small-scale agricultural production within the shortest possible time. (C, 1 Jan 60, p 1)

In the city of Kosice, the local National Committee will concentrate on increasing the workers' interest in public administration, as part of its political work in the electoral districts. This will be done chiefly through the medium of street committees, which will be entrusted with political-organizational tasks in addition to their limited administrative functions. (VN, 29 Dec 59, p 3)

During 1959, Brno Kraj recruited 4,035 new brigade workers for the Ostrava coal mines and construction projects. (R, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

During the Third Five-Year Plan, 12,000 dwellings are to be constructed in Ceske Budejovice Kraj. This will provide for a fundamental solution of the housing problem in the "third-category" okreses - Kaplice, Vimperk, Prachatice. At least 3,000 of these dwellings are to be built in the border okreses, thereby providing the basis for completing resettlement of these border areas. (JP, 4 Jan 60, p 2)

PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Indoctrination and Propaganda.

A plenary session of the Ostrava Kraj KSC committee, held on 21 December 1959, dealt especially with problems of political agitation. The main speaker was Comrade Alois KRAL, secretary of the committee, who said, in part :

"Not all our comrades fully realize that mobilizing the working people to fulfill the tasks set by the Party actually consists of comradely persuasion, explaining and clarifying the Party's policy to the people. Our agitation suffers from lack of systematic effort; when we concentrate our forces on meeting a major goal we must, as a rule, begin agitation all over, from the bottom up.

We want capable people, even if it means that non-Party-members are included in persuasion work. However, it is necessary to prepare them for this work - within the framework of agitation collectives which can only be under Party direction.

There are working places without a single Party member. Can such places remain without Party influence ? Everyone will say that they cannot. How can this be done ? Through a worker, even if he is not a Party member, who belongs to an agitation collective, when he - together with Communists - is prepared for agitation work.

Okres committees, and particularly basic Party organizations, ought to recruit more retired workers for agitation work than has been the case until now. For instance, in the Marianske Hory area, pensioners were included in persuasion work among citizens to aid the agricultural cooperatives - and achieved very good results.

It is a good practice for the Party organization to set aside a certain number of families, or citizens, for whom the agitator is to be systematically concerned. For instance, the Cermna rural organization - in the Vitkov area - gave individual agitators 'their' families, whom they visit regularly...

Agitation efforts on the afternoon and night shifts [in factories] and in housing centers and homes for working youths are unsatisfactory. In the latter case, each building must have a network of agitators, in order to apply the

Party's influence in educating each of its inhabitants.

No less attention may be given to the groups of working people of other nationalities.

Propaganda often fails to aid us in the education of agitators. Let me cite an example from the Branec iron works. Comrades from that plant sent a letter to the CC CPCS, in which they demanded separation of church and state. Although two lectures on religion had been held in the plant, it transpired that the comrades had no clear ideas in this matter and it took quite some time to convince them of the wrongness of their demand. We have no doubt that the lectures had been ideologically correct and without error. But how much did it help if people learned how religion came about, what role was played by Christianity, etc., but heard nothing about the substance of the separation of church and state, about the people who, today, are interested in pushing such a demand, about what the Party stand is, and so on? It thus became possible for such incorrect views to arise.

It is the duty of the KSC village organization to ensure the Party line in every public meeting." (NS, 29 Dec 59, p 3)

A working conference of KSC okres secretaries and instructors for agitation and propaganda was held in Ostrava on 3 January 1960. It dealt with the problems of mass political work as set forth in the December decisions of the KSC kraj committee. This year the Party must do a better job of equipping agitators with facts and arguments. (NS, 4 Jan 60, p 2)

A teachers' collective in Liptovska Kokava, Zilina Kraj, organized a week's course for parents. In these lectures, entitled "Pedagogical University", parents learned about the status of children in various social systems, and particularly in a Socialist society, about the attitude of children and adolescents toward society, labor, the scientific world outlook, etc. The response to these lectures was such that the teachers promised to repeat the course next year. (C, 1 Jan 60, p 5)

Zilina Kraj was among the first to fulfill the 1959 plan for the sale of books, thereby making a good contribution to implementation of the resolution of the 11th Party Congress on completing the cultural revolution in Czechoslovakia. (C, 1 Jan 60, p 9)

Kosice Kraj was first in Czechoslovakia to achieve a 100-percent result in implementing the decision of the 11th KSC Congress that every citizen should have a film theater in his community. There are now 503 communities in the kraj with permanent movie houses. For 1960, it is planned to begin establishing a new type of movie houses in which will be included a children's corner, making it possible for mothers to attend a performance, while her child stays under educational supervision. (VN, 31 Dec 59, p 4)

Twelve thousand people saw the film on N.S. Khrushchev's trip to the United States during the first four days it was shown in Plzen. Because of the great interest it aroused, the film will remain until 7 January 1960. (Pra, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

"Last year was another big victory for our camp of Socialist countries", announces T. SVATOPLUK, the writer, in an article headlined "New Year's Reflections". He continues:

"How important a change has taken place can also be seen in the fact that the West is now taking us very, very seriously. At first, Nikita Khrushchev was under guard in America, but then it all collapsed and the American people and Khrushchev fell into each other's arms.... We know how things ended for them [i.e., the West] in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan [sic] - there it [sic] could no longer work in their favor as it once did in Korea." (NP, 31 Dec 59, p 1)

Party Membership, Dues, Activities

Not all comrades understand correctly the need for strengthening our village cadres; they regard going to the village as some kind of degradation.

And how about the younger ones ? One of them is Jiri STANEK, going as an instructor to Stary Bydzov, Hradec Kralove Kraj, to become secretary of the local National Committee after the elections. He is just 30, but he has a lot of experience. For several years, he was first secretary of the Novy Bydzov CSM okres committee, and member of the KSC okres committee cureau. After his return from military service, he came to Hradec Kralove as a secretary of the CSM kraj committee. In fact, he asked voluntarily for release from the CSM kraj committee apparatus - and he certainly does not see his new assignment as a degradation. In

truth, the present cadre transfers to the countryside are a check of Communists' loyalty to the Party. (P, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

On 3 January 1960, a total of 238 Party functionaries departed for villages in Ostrava Kraj on permanent assignment. They came from okres-level organizations. An additional 92 comrades were dispatched to the countryside from the Ostrava Kraj KSC committee, and 18 directly from the CC of the Party, to stay in the countryside for a month or two as activists.

All of these Party cadres will help to work out the yearly production plans in the agricultural cooperatives, supervise fulfillment of plans, organize soil amelioration work, and develop socialist competitions in honor of the anniversary of liberation. (NS, 4 Jan 60, p 1)

A number of basic Party organizations in Zilina Kraj fail to carry out their duties because of the small number of members. In Rajec Okres particularly, there are many organizations with only a few members, yet during all of 1959, only three new candidates were recruited from among the farmers. Without sufficiently strong village Party organizations, it will not be possible to solve the problem of raising agricultural production. (C, 1 Jan 60, p 5)

There was not a village Slovak organization in Sabinov Okres, Presov Kraj, that did not adopt a resolution at its last annual meeting to establish an agricultural cooperative in the community or to extend one to include the entire community. But most of these decisions remained on paper. And how could it be otherwise if the chairmen themselves - who proposed the resolutions - frequently hold opposite views? Many of them indeed were in favor of a cooperative, but on condition that they would not have to join it. Agitators often come and go - and nothing happens. It will be necessary to resume agitation, and the winter season is a particularly suitable time. (VN, 31 Dec 59, p 4)

In Brno Kraj alone, 60,000 apartments are to be built during the Third Five-Year Plan. In view of the rising demands on the construction industry, it is no longer possible to tolerate a state of affairs in which the Party does not exercise its right of control over individual con-

struction sites. The Politburo of the Brno Kraj KSC committee recently dealt with the insufficient Party activity in construction industries of the Kraj.

Basic Party organizations do not pay attention to the recruitment of new Party members from among workers. In fact, because of neglect on the part of okres Party organizations, a number of work places in the construction industry have no Party cells at all, although they have been in existence for a year, or even longer. Excuses are sometimes advanced that Party cells could not be organized because there are few Party members and frequent changes of work place. But this excuse does not hold water, for Party organizations must have a say in the transfer of employees to other work places. Instead, however, management transfers crews and specialized groups from one construction site to another without reporting it to the Party organization - and thus without its knowledge. On the other hand, Party organizations do not seem to realize that they have a right to demand that management discuss every transfer of employees with them, to prevent unnecessary weakening of Party organizations, which often are numerically weak even as they are.

Moreover, many Communists on construction sites take no part in Party activities, claiming that they are active in the Party cell of their residence. The Politburo of the KSC kraj committee therefore has requested all Party organizations and managements in the construction industry to pay attention to strengthening the Party on all work sites, especially those which have been in existence for a year or longer. (R, 30 Dec 59, pp 1, 3)

On 29 December 1959, the local KSC organization in Starovice, Brno Kraj, held a public meeting. The citizens learned what they will receive in financial aid from the state and what they will have to provide by self-help. As to the community projects for the period up to 1965 (which include school repairs, pavements, sewers, two bridges over the local brook, etc.), they learned that the planned financial aid will suffice only to pay for the materials and that they themselves are to supply labor on a brigade basis. This was nothing new to them, as in the years past they have worked thousands of hours without pay to improve their community. (R, 31 Dec 59, p 2)

PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

New Plants, Output, and Plan Goals.

Drahomir KOLDER, leading secretary of the Ostrava Kraj KSC committee, recently reviewed 1959 plan fulfillment in the Ostrava Kraj.

The coal mines had fulfilled the plan by 28 December 1959. However, this must not blind our eyes to the shortcomings which still exist. If more coal is to be extracted in 1960, it is necessary to advance mechanization so that the increase will not come from greater physical effort by the miners.

The construction industry was very successful in that it provided 550 apartments above the plan and, for the first time, achieved completion of 11,000 housing units in a single year. This means there is a real possibility of constructing 13,000 housing units in Ostrava Kraj during 1960.

However, metallurgical industries continue to worry us. The "VZKG" plant in Vitkovice and the Trinec iron works exceeded their targets, and many other plants have fulfilled the plan. But the "NHKG" (New Klement Gottwald Metallurgical Plant) in Kuncice failed in steel output and rolled products. Many workers have come from all over the country to help the "NHKG" steel men. (NS, 30 Dec 59, p 1)

With the new year [1960], the Ostrava factory "Ostravit" became a subsidiary of the "Moravske Chemicke Zavody" (Moravian Chemical Works). Its production line will henceforth concentrate on technical resins, the output of which is to increase 10 times by 1965, as well as on similar substances. These resins will make it possible to expand shell casting in foundries, in place of the old-fashioned sand box method. (NS, 4 Jan 60, p 2)

After completion of the second stage of construction, the "Nova Hut Klementa Gottwalda" (New Klement Gottwald Metallurgical Works) in Kuncice, Ostrava Kraj, will become the most modern of our metallurgical enterprises, with a self-contained production cycle (10 coke-oven batteries will produce coke for four blast furnaces and for export), eight Martins furnaces and a foundry to process pig iron, a double rolling passage, the most modern in Europe.... (R, 1 Jan 60, p 3)

The production increase during the Third Five-Year Plan can be exemplified by a few enterprises in Zilina Kraj. For instance, the "Zavod Klementa Gottwalda" (Klement Gottwald Works) in Povazska Bystrica will turn out 500 complete lathes in 1961 - but 950 in 1965. The "Zavod K.J. Vorosilova" (K.J. Voroshilov Works) in Dubnica will produce 100 electrical locomotives in 1961 and 210 locomotives in 1965; its annual output of rolled products will rise in the same period from 7,000 to 9,000 tons. The "Zavod J.V. Stalina" (J.V. Stalin Works) in Martin will produce 55 Diesel-hydraulic locomotives in 1961 and 320 in 1965; the output of 170-DR engines will increase from 80 to 450 in the same period. The "Zavod V. Sirokeho" (V. Siroky Works) in Kysucke Nove Mesto will increase its annual output of roller bearings by 135,000,000 pieces. In the "Kovohute" (Metal Foundries) in Istebne, the output of ferroalloys will increase by 23.5 percent presumably between 1961 and 1965. (C, 1 Jan 60, p 2)

A new rolling passage will be completed in the "Zelezarny Stalingrad" (Stalingrad Iron Works) in Frydek-Mistek, Ostrava Kraj, by July 1960. (NS, 1 Jan 60, p 2)

The new oil pipeline from the USSR will have tremendous importance for our economy. Our own annual production of oil is about 120,000 tons. When the first stage of the pipeline is completed, it will bring us 6,000,000 tons of oil annually.

Much of it will go to the "Slovnaft" plant kraj not indicated, which is still under construction. Oil is now brought there by rail or by boat from the Danube. But when the "Slovnaft" is completed, it will produce 60 percent of the motor fuels Czechoslovakia uses.

At present, our motor car gasoline has an octane number of 65 and our special gasoline of 72. When the "Vlci Hrdlo" plant probably refinery; kraj not indicated has been completed three years from now, we will also have 90-octane gasoline like that now sold in the West German Federal Republic. With that gas, our "Spartak-Sport" car can do up to 150 kilometers per hour.

Soviet oil will make it possible for us to manufacture synthetic rubber - we must now export machinery worth 500,000,000 koruny every year to pay for imports of it and without the Soviet oil we would remain dependent on those imports. (NS, 1 Jan 60, p 3)

Ostrava steelworkers failed to produce the 80,000 tons of steel by which they fell short of the pledge made in 1958. Even the Kuncice plant will have difficulty meeting the 1959 plan, although its situation looked much better in the first part of the year.

This shows how much thought must be given to preparations for the substantially higher tasks of the Third Five-Year Plan. In the Trinec plant, steel output will rise by 36.3 percent, most of which will come from mill No. III. The plant will rebuild all the mill's furnaces into the 400-ton type to meet this goal. In the Kuncice plant, steel output in 1960 is to be half again as much as in 1959. (NS, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

A difficult situation continues in Ostrava Kraj metallurgical plants, writes CC CPCS secretary Oldrich CERNIK in the Ostrava Kraj Party daily. Steel output exceeded the plan by 45,000 tons, but the output of rolled steel fell short of plan goals. This was because of delays on the new rolling passages in the Kuncice "NHKG" plant. (NS, 1 Jan 60, p 1)

Since the beginning of 1959, Ostrava mines have given our country 22,892,730 tons of coal, of which 4,123,640 tons were obtained by coal combines, plows and scrapers. The plan for coal extraction by combines was not fulfilled. In 1959, only 147,000 tons were extracted on Sunday shifts, compared to more than 500,000 tons in 1957 - which means that the miners could enjoy a well-deserved Sunday rest. The debt which the Ostrava mines carry from 1956 and 1957 was reduced this year [1959] to some 145,000 tons. (NS, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

The Ostrava-Karvina coal basin is to extract 1,200,000 tons of coal more in 1960 than it did in 1959. In addition, miners are expected to make up the debt they owe to the Second Five-Year Plan, which at present is some 150,000 tons.

But quantity of output will not be the only goal in 1960. It is no longer possible to disregard cost. In 1959, total production was 190,000 tons above the planned target, but costs went 50,000,000 koruny above the plan. It will be necessary to prevent repetition of such losses.

Another area in which change will be necessary is in

the use of materials. In ten months alone, the plan for consumption of materials was exceeded by almost 50,000,000 koruny. Measures now being adopted in the various enterprises must, however, be applied consistently and thoroughly. (NS, 30 Dec 59, p 2)

The Ostrava-Karvina coal basin provides 37 percent of the coking coals extracted in the European people's democracies. This means that development of metallurgical industries - not only in Czechoslovakia, but also in a number of friendly countries - depends on an increase in the output of coking coals in the Ostrava-Karvina basin. (NS, 30 Dec 59, p 3)

Preparatory work for construction of the first mine in the new southern coalfield at Paskov, Ostrava Kraj, will probably be started in 1960. Another new mine in Ostrava Kraj - Sucha-Stonava - is to be completed in January 1961. (NS, 1 Jan 60, p 2)

Rolling-mill workers in Frydek-Mistek, Ostrava Kraj, spent the first working day of 1960 on export orders. The 10th and 11th rolling passages were turning out sheet metal for Romania and Albania, while the other passages produced mostly rust-proof sheet for the chemical industry. In 1961, the plant will open a new rolling passage for transformer sheets.

A number of the mill's employees left on 2 January 1960 for the USSR, where they will spend two months studying Soviet experience with the new type of rolling passage. (NS, 4 Jan 60, p 2)

One of the most urgent tasks now facing the staff of the "Vychodoslovenske Zeleziarne" (East Slovakian Iron Works) is to complete the tube-welding plant in Kosice-Bociar. The first stage is to be completed by 1 April 1960. In its final form, the plant will employ about 300 workers. (VN, 31 Dec 59, p 2)

A large thermal plant is to be constructed in Karvina to provide heat for the new Karvina-Raj housing development. Its hourly installed capacity will be 25,000,000 kilocalories - meaning that it can supply heat to 18,000 people. The plant is to be completed by 1961. (NS, 1 Jan 60, p 2)

Ostrava has a long-standing problem in the supply of drinking water and water for industry. Most of the kraj's water streams are heavily polluted by industrial waste, despite the law passed in 1955 which provides heavy fines for failure to purify waste water.

In 1959, 15 plants in Ostrava Kraj were fined; 12 appealed, though unsuccessfully. The paper mill in Vratimov, for instance, has to pay 165,000 koruny to the kraj National Committee. The fine also affects the plant's director, in that he loses certain bonuses.

But fines are no solution of the problem, as they actually only mean money going from one pocket into another. The Politburo of the KSC kraj committee is preparing a January 1960 session to discuss this problem and to propose steps to solve it. (NS, 29 Dec 59, p 2)

The chemical factory in Usti nad Labem fulfilled its annual production plan on 21 December 1959 and will manufacture an additional 7,000,000 koruny's worth of goods before the end of 1959. (Pru, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

The "Tatra" truck factory in Koprivnice, Ostrava Kraj, plans for 1960 production of a new model, the T 138, to replace the well-known T 111. The new truck will have many improvements, including torsion bar ride, a car radio, a cab made of plastic material (glass laminate). Trucks manufactured during the Third Five-Year Plan will also have automatic drive. (NS, 30 Dec 59, p 2)

The level of the output norms in the "Vychodoslovenske Strojarne" (East Slovakian Engineering Works) in Kosice is such that a worker often does not consider it necessary to get a special tool, but uses primitive methods to finish his product without losing any pay. Fifty percent of tools often are never used, as the line of products keeps changing and specialized tools have a short life.

In order to cut down on the cost of tools, engineering plants often make their own simple and makeshift aids - even for assembly-line production, as is the case in the "Slovenske Elektrotechnicke Zavody" (Slovak Electrical Engineering Works) in Krompachy, Kosice Kraj. This, of course, causes considerable reduction in labor productivity. It is necessary to solve as soon as possible the contradiction which has evolved in the engineering indus-

tries in Eastern Slovakia between productive modern equipment and obsolete techniques in the use of tools. (VN, 29 Dec 59, pp 2, 3)

The new wage system means more consistent implementation of the Socialist slogan "To each according to his labor". This is shown by the experience of the "Brandyske Strojirny a Slevarny" (Brandys Engineering and Foundry Works) in Chlumec nad Cidlinou, Hradec Kralove Kraj, directed by Comrade Vaclav SVOBODA, laureate of the State Prize and holder of the Order of Labor. Two months after introducing the new system, the plan for productivity was oversubscribed - to 107 percent - while average earnings remained 3 percent lower than planned. (P, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

A new coke plant will be completed in the "VZKG" (Klement Gottwald Iron Works) in Vitkovice, Ostrava Kraj, during 1960. New coking batteries will raise the plant's output of coke by 25 percent and improve its quality. (NS, 1 Jan 60, p 2)

When NS asked what its readers expect from 1960, from the next Five-Year Plan, and for themselves, it received the following reply from an employee of the "VZKG" bridge construction plant at Liskovec, Ostrava Kraj :

"So far, in our plant, although work hours are set at 46 weekly, we work, on an average, around 55 hours weekly and the more conscious workers are often required to work 80, or even 100, hours overtime monthly. I expect that our leading workers and technicians will concern themselves more responsibly with the question of growth in labor productivity - not through increasing physical strain, but by introducing progressive technology and mechanization. (NS, 1 Jan 60, p 2)

Employees of the "Gumarne 1. Maja" (First of May Rubber Works) in Puchov, Zilina Kraj, adopted many pledges in honor of the 15th anniversary of the country's liberation. Among others, they pledged that in 1960 they will save 264,600 kilograms of pure rubber (kaučuk) worth 1,584,000 koruny. (C, 1 Jan 60, p 3)

Transportation and Communications

After seven months of work, the Plzen telephone exchange

was adapted to the five-digit system. New equipment installed in the automatic exchange will eliminate overburdening of the telephone lines. (Pra, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

An unwholesome mood is again spreading among the Plzen railroad men - similar to the one which caused so many difficulties two years ago. Interest in precise fulfillment of tasks has declined, Party organizations are no longer so interested in implementing previously adopted rules - and the results are delayed trains and shortcomings in freight traffic. All these things were discussed on a recent conference of the Plzen railroad men and resolutions were adopted to improve the present state of affairs. (Pra, 29 Dec 59, p 3)

Several construction enterprises in Usti nad Labem Kraj continue the bad practice of delaying freight cars on their railroad sidings. They seem to have lots of money to pay fines for such delays : in October 1959 alone, the Usti nad Labem management of "Pozemni Stavby" (Ground Construction) paid 50,214 koruny in fines and the Most management of the same enterprise - which delayed 213 cars a total of 4,492 hours - paid 25,000 koruny. Even worse culprits in this respect were the sugar plants - the one at Lenesice had to pay 112,000 koruny in October 1959 and the Louny sugar plant, which delayed no fewer than 674 cars by more than 10,000 hours, paid 32,000 koruny. In all, fines of 3,000,000 koruny were paid for such wasteful delays. (Pru, 29 Dec 59, p 1)

At present, there are 70,000 TV sets in Ostrava Kraj, which is 24,000 more than a year ago. (NS, 31 Dec 59, p 1)

PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

Housing and Living Conditions

During 1959, 55 new self-service stores were opened in Usti nad Labem Kraj, bringing the total number to 115. An additional 35 will open in 1960. These stores sell groceries, stationery, tobacco, and textiles. (Pru, 31 Dec 59, p 1)

The movement to have tenants take their apartment houses

into Socialist care is still without direction, but it is important that it exists. The new attitude of people toward Socialist property will soon be codified in a new law on apartment house management.

Several instances in which tenants - sometimes a few individuals, often whole collectives - took action in this matter recently occurred in Brno. In one apartment house, tenants adopted a pledge to repair the house by self-help and provide 230 work hours; the house management will supply the materials. Management of the central section of Brno announced a competition among apartment houses under its jurisdiction : it will reward the four best houses by supplying them with equipment for new bathrooms, with gas ranges, window shades, etc. From these actions there is only one small step more until the tenants take the houses into Socialist care. (R, 4 Jan 60, p 1)

"Zavody Presneho Strojarnstva" (Precise Engineering Works) in Kysucke Nove Mesto, Zilina Kraj, take good care of their employees. Up until 1959, there was only one creche for 30 children and this could not satisfy the employees' demand. The plant, therefore, established another creche at its own expense, on the main floor of the building for single employees, and in this one alone there are now 45 children.

However, this was not all. The plant also established a health center - a kind of hospital. The patients are employees who have no families and no one to care for them when they are sick, those who live far away and cannot come to town when undergoing an injection cure - and also those who are "sick" but who become healthy very quickly when they cannot "cure" themselves at home. (C, 1 Jan 60, p 9)

Church and Religion

[See also Part II. Indoctrination and Propaganda]

The Christian religion was born under the pressure of the new economic conditions of the Roman society 2,000 years ago. At its cradle were not the Three Kings, but misery and the inhuman sufferings of slaves and paupers. The savior legend about Christ at least promised happiness after death. But it did not change anything in the earthly life of the poor. It was not the Roman church which gave humanity a better life, but the revolutionary struggle of the working class. The

illusion of Christ and his miracles only brought property worth billions for the church. (Pra, 29 Dec 59, p 2)

Cultural Life

To conclude its anniversary celebrations, the State Theater in Brno performed a play by Jiri Mahen, "The Deserter", which was presented under a new title, "Freedom's Comrade" (Kamarad Svobody). It is an anti-war play which has not been shown on our stage for 40 years. The playwright attempted to give the plot - based on an actual event - a wider social meaning. But it is precisely here that the author's lack of ideological clarity and remnants of idealism are noticeable. Mahen elevated the story of a military deserter to a drama of an eternal outcast, seen from a generally humanitarian point of view. Thus Mahen's struggle against violence is waged from doubtful ideological positions and fails to convey the substance of the struggle against war and militarism. The cast performed well and realistically, but the play failed to fulfill the task intended. (R, 29 Dec 59, p 4)

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